

Fundamentals of Animal Learning (PSYC-2800/3)

Instructor

Doug Williams

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I will be glad to answer questions and receive comments anytime. Drop-in visits are welcome. If you wish to see me at a specific time contact me for an appointment.

Course Content

This course examines forms of learning and cognition widely shared by humans and nonhumans, such as habituation, Pavlovian and instrumental conditioning, observational learning, memory, timing, and counting.

Required Text

Domjan, M. (2015). *The Principals of Learning and Behavior* (7th Edition). Cengage/Wadsworth, Belmont: CA. ISBN:1-285-08856-5.

Class Website

The class website contains powerpoint lecture slides, practice questions, and grades. Select NEXUS on the UofW homepage to access the website.

Evaluation

Three Tests. There will be 3 tests during the term. The tests will be composed of multiple choice, short answer, and long answer questions. One or two long answer questions will be randomly selected from a question list handed out 1 week before the test. Tests are closed book. No devices other than a calculator (e.g., dictionaries). A photo ID may be requested. Please contact the instructor if you are ill or have other reasonable grounds to defer writing the test. Make-up tests are not given on the basis of a "less than expected" grade.

Two Assignments. The first assignment is a group project called Viral Vid. Groups of four or five students will create a YouTube short on a smartphone which demonstrates a basic conditioning principle or

phenomenon. The second assignment requires students to derive predictions for a set of fictional experiments using the Rescorla-Wagner model. This assignment can be hand written. Information about each assignment will be posted in NEXUS and discussed in class. Late assignments will be reduced by one point per regular working day (Monday to Friday only), unless excused by the Professor.

### Schedule

- Unit 1: Chapters 1, 2, 3, & 4 (omit pages 107 - 118)  
**Viral Vid Assignment: Thursday February 15 (7.5 points)**  
**Test 1: Thursday February 1 (25 points)**
- Unit 2: Chapter 4 (pages 107 -118) 5, 6, 7, 8 (Pages 211-227)  
Reading Week: February 18-24 (No classes)  
**Rescorla-Wagner Assignment: Thursday March 1 (7.5 points)**  
**Test 2: Thursday March 8 (25 points)**
- Unit 3: Chapters 9, 10, 11, & 12  
Last Class: April 3  
**Test 3: Monday April 10, 1:30 - 3:00, 1L07 (35 points)**

Note: Readings may be dropped at the instructor's discretion, but will never be added.

### Grades

Letter grades based on the tally of the five components of the course (Test 1 = 25, Test 2 = 25, Test 3 = 35, Assignment 1 = 7.5 and Assignment 2 = 7.5) will be distributed as closely as possible to the following scale:

A+ (can be more than one person), discretionary, usually >95  
>87 = A; >82 = A-; >76 = B+; >70 = B; >65 = C+; >58 = C; >50 = D; <50 = F

Grades are reviewed by the Psychology Department and may be increased or decreased, although changes are extremely unlikely. The date for withdrawing from this course without academic penalty is **Wednesday, March 14.**

#### Notes:

Students with documented disabilities, temporary or chronic medical conditions, requiring academic accommodations for tests/exams (e.g., private space) or during lectures/laboratories (e.g., access to volunteer note-takers) are encouraged to contact Accessibility Services (AS) at 786-9771 or email [accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca](mailto:accessibilityservices@uwinnipeg.ca) to discuss appropriate options. Specific information about AS is available on-line at <http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/accessibility>. All information about a student's disability or medical condition remains confidential. Please review Section A of University of Winnipeg Calendar for information on appeals, withdrawals, misconduct, plagiarism, and cheating. All students, faculty and staff have the right to participate, learn and work in an environment that is free of harassment and discrimination. The UW Respectful Working and Learning Environment Policy may be found online at [www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect](http://www.uwinnipeg.ca/respect). Students may choose not to attend classes or write examinations on holy days of their religion, but they must notify their instructors at least two weeks in advance. Instructors will then provide opportunity for students to make-up work and/or examinations without penalty. A list of religious holidays can be found at: <http://uwinnipeg.ca/academics/calendar/docs/important-notes.pdf>.